

Vetting Companies & Executives

Our librarians regularly vet companies, candidates who have been nominated to committees and councils sponsored by the Department of Commerce, and for other purposes. We would be happy to assist with your vetting, but if you'd rather do it yourself, here are some search tips to get you started.

Please note, our search tips are intended to find derogatory information about companies and candidates. If you are looking for company or industry analyses, please refer to the **Company Information** or **Industry Information Research Guides**.

1. **Internet search for candidate and company name variations** to use in licensed databases such as Lexis, EbscoHost, and OneSource (i.e. spelling variations, nicknames, middle initials, company shorthand [e.g. Coke for Coca Cola Enterprises, Inc.], etc.). Good resources include company websites (especially executive biographies) and LinkedIn.
2. **Researching on Lexis.com***. Lexis is a great vetting resource because it has thousands of full-text newspapers, newswires, trade publications, journals, transcripts and more.
 - a. Under the SEARCH tab go to “News and Business,” and then select “News, All (English, Full Text)” from the “Combined Sources” column.
 - b. Limit search to previous five years (fewer if searching large companies).
 - c. Use “Terms and Connectors.” Below is a canned search you can copy and paste as a starting point; enter the company or individual’s name within the quotation marks. Please note that you may need to add or remove search terms depending on the nature of your subject; refer to the “Help” section in the upper right corner for more tips on using the Lexis search engine.

"COMPANY NAME" and abus! or accus! or alleg! or arrest! or assault! or attack! or bankrupt! or breach! or brib! or (chapter pre/1 7 or 11) or conspir! or co-conspir! or corrupt! or crime or criminal! or defraud! or discrim! or fraud! or guilt! or illegal! or indict! or inside! info! or insolv! or misappropriat! or misconduct or misdeme! or misrepresent! or negligen! or offen! or prosecut! or racketeer! or revocation or sabotag! or sanction! or scam! or scandal! or steal! or stole* or sued or suing or suspen! or theft or unlawful! or verdict or violat! or violen!

- d. If your results yield too many hits (more than 50), narrow your search by:
 - i. Limiting to the lead paragraph: LEAD(paste your search inside the parentheses)
 - ii. Change your date restriction to the Previous 3 Years.
 - iii. After the COMPANY NAME replace “and” with “w/4” so you are only searching the terms within 4 words of the company name.
 - iv. Limit the databases – instead of “News, All (English, Full Text)” try “Major Newspapers” or choosing the larger individual publications, such as the NYT, WSJ, LA Times, Miami Herald, Denver Paper & Washington Post.

The screenshot shows the Lexis search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'All', 'Legal', 'News & Business', 'Public Records', and 'Find A Source'. The 'News & Business' tab is selected. Below the tabs, there is a search bar with the text 'News & Business > Combined Sources > News, All (English, Full Text)'. The search bar is labeled 'Search' and has a 'View Tutorial | Help' link. Below the search bar, there is a section titled 'Select Search Type and Enter Search Terms'. It has three options: 'Terms & Connectors', 'Natural Language', and 'Easy Search™'. The 'Terms & Connectors' option is selected, and a text box contains the search terms: "Steve Jobs" and abus! or accus! or alleg! or arrest! or assault! or attack! or bankrupt! or breach! or brib! or (chapter pre/1 7 or 11) or conspir! or co-conspir! or corrupt! or crime or criminal! or defraud! or discrim! or fraud! or guilt! or illegal! or indict! or inside! info! or insolv! or misappropriat! or misconduct or misdeme! or misrepresent! or negligen! or offen! or prosecut! or racketeer! or revocation or sabotag! or sanction! or scam! or scandal! or steal! or stole* or sued or suing or suspen! or theft or unlawful! or verdict or violat! or violen!. To the right of the text box are links for 'Suggest terms for my search' and 'Check spelling'. Below the text box is a section titled 'Restrict by Document Segment'. It has a dropdown menu for 'Select a Segment' and an 'Add' button. Below this is a 'Note: Segment availability differs between sources. Segments may not be applied consistently across sources.' and a 'Restrict by Date' section with a radio button for 'Previous 5 Years' and a 'Date formats...' link.

3. Other databases to search:

- a. EbscoHost, Gale, & ProQuest** are three resources that can be searched in one step from the yellow search box on the library home page. If you get back too many results, you can also search them individually, as well as limit the results to “abstract”.
 - i. EbscoHost’s Business Source Complete** – magazines, trade publications, and academic journals.
 - ii. Gale’s Academic & General OneFile** – business news and information from popular publications and academic journals.
 - iii. ProQuest** – Comprehensive international business content from major newspapers, trade publications, and scholarly journals.
- b. OneSource** – Public and private company and industry information, including corporate overviews, executives, SEC filings, financial health and more. [View the OneSource User Guide here.](#)
- c. Uniworld** – multinational business directories that include contact information for headquarters, branches, subsidiaries and affiliates.
- d. Ward’s Business Directory of US Private and Public Companies (Gale)** – current company and industry profiles, 90% of which are private.
- e. Corporate Affiliations (Lexis*)** – a directory of corporate structure information with contact information and subsidiary listings (both public and private). To access click the “Find a Source” tab and enter “corporate affiliations.”

*Commerce employees can receive a user ID for Lexis by contacting the library at lawlibrary@doc.gov. ITA employees can access Lexis directly via the CDP.